

NODS TO NATURE

From painting the window trim dark green to choosing fabrics in a woodland palette, framing and complementing the lake view from this cabin's living room was top of mind for designer Jessica Davis. Set against the calm backdrop of the pine-paneled architecture, a checked sofa faces a daybed in a watery green-blue, creating a comfy spot to stretch out with an unobstructed view.

Call of the Cabin

A sleepy retreat on a storied lake gets a wake-up call with unexpected combinations of colors, patterns, and vintage finds.

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Cloud White
Benjamin Moore

Designer Jessica Davis highlighted the cabin's original woodwork, including the diagonal boards above the existing fireplace (made of stones from the local mountain range), with warm white paint.

added readily available, budget-friendly furniture. She also mixed in some of the family's heirlooms (with lineages tracing back to 19th-century England) and other vintage pieces. Splashes of color, resonating with the stripes of classic Pendleton blankets, keep the look cohesive with its forest-friendly color scheme. "We wanted it to feel layered and to have all the family's personalities combined," says Jessica. "It feels like a cozy Maine cabin with a little bit of English cottage."

The main living areas, from the screened-in porch to the kitchen, march along the shoreline with unobstructed views of the lake, which has its own lore. Franklin Delano Roosevelt once worked at Squam Lake as a camp counselor, and it served as the setting for the 1981 movie

On Golden Pond. "The loons! The loons! They're welcoming us back," actress Katharine Hepburn famously says at the start of the film upon arriving at a cabin.

"Mostly we come in the summer," the owner of this cabin says, "but I think peak perfection is the second or third week of October. You get the leaf changes and amazing local produce." With only a handful of boat launches, the lake is often peaceful, with its silence broken only by the wailing of loons. "I find them haunting and beautiful," the owner says. "This place is deeply special to me."

Anxious to move in as quickly as possible, the homeowners turned to their friend Jessica to help freshen up the dark and dated cabin. They left the floor plan intact, and there wasn't enough time to make it fancy, which suited the new owner just fine. "First and foremost, this is a functional family lake house," he says. "It's not meant to be an art piece or even a conversation starter. It's meant to be a beloved space for families."

Vaulted ceilings and knotty wood paneling made for an ideally simple setting to which Jessica

The distinctive calling of loons is familiar to most anyone who has spent time near water in the Northeast, and if you hear it there, it's a good bet you're at a cabin. That certainly rings true on the quiet shores of Squam Lake in New Hampshire, where interior designer Jessica Davis (atelierdavis.com) helped a 1980s property answer a different kind of calling for a California family with long-time ties to the area. (One family member spent his childhood at a historic camp on the same lake, about two miles from their now getaway.)



Ming Jade
Benjamin Moore

PINE-COLORED CABINETRY

Instead of replacing the perfectly fine kitchen cabinets, Jessica coated them with a bold, saturated green. "It feels like a very New England kind of color," she says. She used a darker shade of green on the windows, the doors, and the balcony railing and spindles to tie the spaces together within the open plan. Natural textures in the new pendant light (crateandbarrel.com) and the jute rug (thepperfectrug.com) unify the kitchen and the dining room, where the vintage trestle table and the Windsor chairs were fortuitously left by the cabin's previous owners.

Black Forest Green
Benjamin Moore

NOSTALGIC SLEEPING QUARTERS

The bedrooms (here and on pg. 66) evoke memories of the homeowner's days as a camper and then a counselor at nearby Camp Deerwood. (His kids attended the camp, too.) In one room, Pendleton blankets are neatly tucked in on a pair of powder-coated forest green bunk beds (roomandboard.com). The room's small footprint and its location away from the main rooms ensure that it's plenty quiet for reading—and for whispering ghost stories after lights-out.



A small table lamp (studiogrist.com) and a wicker-edged mirror (luluandgeorgia.com) add shapely curves atop a polished black-painted dresser with brass hardware (onekingslane.com).



As another nod to early-20th-century camp bunk rooms, a pair of folding stools (westelm.com) sits at the feet of mustard yellow powder-coated twin beds (schoolhouse.com) in a second no-fuss bedroom.

“We wanted to create a design that felt airy and fun in the summer but still cozy on rainy fall afternoons.”

—DESIGNER JESSICA DAVIS



The primary bedroom's patterned bedspread and Moroccan rug add jolts of color in juxtaposition with the more modern-feeling metal bed (crateandbarrel.com). “There’s an almost Scandinavian vibe,” says Jessica.



The dock's comfy Adirondack chairs (polywood.com) provide an ideal perch for fishing for smallmouth bass and watching wildlife such as bears and moose.



WOOD-WRAPPED PORCH

Situated on a rug in colors that mimic the surrounding view (westelm.com), the screened-in porch's round wooden table (rh.com) and comfortable woven chairs (serenaandlily.com) invite long conversations. The porch and the sprawling deck beyond it are also perfect spots for watching storms roll in. “We wanted to create a design that felt airy and fun in the summer but still cozy on rainy fall afternoons,” says Jessica.